

# Ok! You Got Me, What's A Print Server

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## *Tutorial On Print Sever Products*

According to LAN Magazine a printer server is "A computer that manages printers and print requests from other nodes" In a sense this is a correct definition. After all, print servers used to be dedicated PCs which allowed printers to be shared by multiple hosts running multiple networking protocols. Using a unique network address, a print server would log on to each selected host, download any printable files in the queue, store them, and then send them to the printer in sequence. This facilitated several network enhancements: (1) it off-loaded the job of spooling and unspooling from the file servers which could then use processing power to run other applications; (2) it provided the ability to arrange the geography of the network to suit the users. Printers could be located in central processing areas or they can be distributed to convenient campus or building locations; and (3) it also freed up other PCs to operate as network workstations. Now, thanks to PATTON ELECTRONICS, INC., the PC and network interface functions have been miniaturized into a small standalone package. Now there's no longer any need to have PCs set up as dedicated print servers. Memory conflicts and hard disk failures need not occur!

So, the official PATTON ELECTRONICS, INC. definition of a printer server is "A miniature CPU with a unique network address providing network access to one or more printers.

### **The Market For Print Servers:**

As a Patton distributor, you should be excited about this announcement! The market for print servers is growing fantastically. There are big advantages to designing a network with separate printer servers. Now customers can share resources, support multiple protocols on a single network, gain flexibility in network design and utilize network and peripheral hardware economically. Not to mention that customers don't need to buy a separate PC to act as a server.

If this announcement caught you by surprise, we hope that you understand a little more about printer servers and have some vision for the market. More on print servers in weeks to come!



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